

Putnam Chapter

Putnam Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society presented their annual Show whose theme was, "The Wedding of The Painted Doll," on August 30, at the Civic Center in Ravine Gardens, in Palatka, Florida.

The affair was well planned and beautifully executed, with great credit to the Chapter. The entire membership actively cooperated in assisting. Each Committee Chairman was perfect in the part assigned to them. There was no friction and a feeling of good will was evident throughout the whole planning and presenting of the event.

Thirty days before show date publicity was started and a steady stream of items of interest were carried in the Palatka Daily News, The Daytona Morning Journal and the Deland Sun. There were two television appearances by members of the Chapter on Station WJXT. The General Show Chairman outlined the show in a personal interview on the Waldo Norris Show. Two days before the show the persons presenting the focal point appeared on Open House on WJXT. Mrs. Erma Davis of the Fashion Shop in Palatka had the wedding gowns made special for this show in New York. They featured the new frosted loke on pale pink. Mrs. Davis explained the high styling of the gowns and the latest trends in wedding raiment. Because of her eminence as a bridal consultant her remarks were of great interest to many. Mrs. Lillian Price, of Price's Conservatory told of the effective use of Hibiscus as wedding flowers, which she used as the floral material featured in the wedding scene. The color scheme of the entire wedding was frosted pink.

The feature of this appearance was the singing of the theme song of the show, "The Wedding of The Painted Doll," from the Broadway Melody, by Miss Ethel Donaldson and Mr. Lonnie Keene, who appeared as guest artists on the show. They presented many lovely numbers during the afternoon of the show which was a scene of unusual lovliness and deft handling. Miss Donaldson closed the show at 5:30 PM. with the singing of the Lord's Prayer.

Many features of this show are worth pointing out. Dr. Sam MacFadden, of the University of Florida presented a group of Mallows. Dr. MacFadden is doing reserch on the crossing of Mallows with Hibiscus, looking to obtaining a more cold resistant Hibiscus. Some of the specimen he showed were twelve inches in diameter. As usual the Educational Section of the show featured the display of six outstanding nurserymen on large styrofoam books on which each bloom was identified. This was a service to guests to the show that wished to know the correct name of flowers they liked and enabled them to identify the variety of Hibiscus adn the nurseryman from whom it could be obtained.

The Nomenclature Committee functioned especially well and at no time was there any rush or confusion in moving the specimen bloom. The Amateur and Commercial Sections were given identical but separate handling. The blooms were wired with green floral wire and then taped with floral tape. This prevented and falling and handling damage as they were moved to their proper place in the show. Many flowers are damaged through careless handling in many shows, but Putnam Chapter bends over backward to use proper care to insure those entering bloom that the quality of their blossoms will not be impaired in any manner after it is given to their care.

The Hospitality Committee functioned like professional caterers. Coffee and sweet rolls were served to all workers from eight oclock in the morning until the show was given to the Judges. They served a luncheon at the conclusion of the judging to about two hundred judges, members and guests. Putnam Chapter feels that they wish to make those persons travelling from a distance warmly welcome and also have the pleasure of treating them as they would guests in their own homes. Mrs. George Parker, Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Frank Fugle, Mrs. Amy Owens, and Mrs. Barbara Belknap are the wonderful four that so graciously filled this assignment.